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Collection Title: Library Access for Children, Policy, Publicity Communication, 1990 - 1993
Created by: Stephanie Aude, Justin Termini, Tricia Craig, Reference Librarians
Collected by: Jean Palmer, Lee Palmer, Janine Givens
Date: October 1, 2023
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Date Range: 1990 – 1993
Extent: 2 archival boxes, 4 linear feet
Box Location: Andover Room, Memorial Hall Library Special Collections

Acquisition Information: The contents of these boxes represent files collected by Jean Palmer, an Andover citizen, parent and professional librarian who advocated for childrens rights to unrestricted public library access at Memorial Hall Library. Lee Palmer, Jean Palmer's daughter, and Janine Givens, two Andover elementary school children, worked and spoke publicly to change restrictive library access policies then in place at Memorial Hall Library.

Language: English

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for use and research.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

American Library Association. "Library Bill of Rights." Chicago, IL, 1980.

American Library Association. "Access for children and young people to videotapes and other nonprint formats." Chicago, IL, 1989.

Alvin, Paul G. "Library goes by the book: restrictions on children faulted by Andover parents." *The Boston Globe*, 22 July 1990, pp. 21, 27.
Article features a photo of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens holding a copy of their 150-signature petition protesting Memorial Hall Library's policy of not allowing children under 12 to use library space outside of the Children's Room.

Alvin, Paul. "Andover Officials Explain Library Policy." *The Boston Globe*, 1 Aug. 1990.

"Board Stays Clear of Library Issue." *The Andover Townsman*, 9 Aug. 1990.

Boudreau, Lisa A. "Town Council to Handle Library Policy Dispute." *The Andover Townsman*, 19 July 1990, p. 3.

Boudreau, Lisa A. “Library Tells Andover, Kids Have Access.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 2 Aug. 1990.

Cantwell, Bill. “Andover Parents to Sue If Library Restricted.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 1 June 1990.

“Children get access to all of Andover.” *Library Journal*, 15 Oct. 1990, p. 27.
Brief article in a professional magazine for librarians featuring a photo of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens with Boston radio personality Tom Bergeron. The article reports that the Trustees of Memorial Hall Library permitted a six-month trial policy to evaluate how allowing elementary school children to have access to the adult areas of Memorial Hall Library.

“Children in Library Leads to Silliness in Adults.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 8 July 1990.

Citizens of Andover. "Petition to Memorial Hall Library regarding equal access for children." September 1990.

Edmonds, Patricia. "Letter to the Editor: Memorial Hall Library is Proud." *Wilson Library Bulletin,* June 1992.

“For Adults Only.” *Newsweek*, 23 July 1990, p. 8.
Brief article in a national magazine mentions the fact that Memorial Hall Library’s existing access policy does not allow children to use adult areas of the library and the involvement of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union in the issue.

Fox, Kenneth. “Young people’s rights protection and limits.” *Everything You Need to Know about Your Legal Rights*, Revised ed., Rosen Publishing, New York, NY, 1999, pp. 11–14. The Need-to-Know Library Series.
The chapter explains the facts and context of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens' objections to Memorial Hall Library's policy of barring children under 12 from the majority of the library's public spaces with the exception of a designated Children's Room in 1990. It also describes their efforts to start a petition to change the policy and the publicity surrounding the case.

Gaunt, Eleanor M. “Library Policy Right,” letter to the editor, *The Eagle Tribune*, 12 Aug. 1990.
Letter to the Editor from the Director of the Ipswich Public Library commending the Trustees of Memorial Hall Library for maintaining their policy to require children under twelve years of age to have an adult accompany them into adult areas of the library.

"Good For You! Kids Force Library to Stop Discrimination." *National Examiner* 30 July 1991: p.14.
Brief article in a national, newsprint tabloid features a photo of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens. The article explains their successful 1990 efforts to change a policy at Memorial Hall Library in Andover, MA forbidding children under 12 to be in the main adult areas of the library.

Hagopian, Art. “Why I Don’t Think Jean Palmer Should Sue the Library.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 30 July 1990, p. 4.
Opinion piece in a Merrimack Valley regional daily newspaper describing Memorial Hall Library’s new six-month trial policy of allowing children under twelve to have full access to the building.

Jacobson, Nancy. "Justice or Anger." *Library Journal* . Chicago, IL , November 1991.

Karnes, Francis A., and Suzanne M. Bean, editors. “Lee Palmer & Janine Givens: equal access to library materials” *Girls and Young Women Leading the Way*, Free Spirit, Minneapolis, MN, 1993.
The chapter gives brief biographical information about both young women and explains the facts and context of their successful efforts to publicize and change Memorial Hall Library's policy of barring children under 12 from most of the library's public spaces with the exception of a designated Children's Room.

Lang, Gregory. “Whether to Keep Children in Library to Be Discussed Tonight.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 16 Apr. 1991.

“Library Opens Doors to Kids.” *Young American America’s Newspaper for Kids*, Nov. 1990, p. 3.
Brief newspaper article celebrating a new library policy allowing children of any age to use all spaces in Memorial Hall Library. A photo of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens holding their 150-signature petition protesting Memorial Hall Library’s policy of not allowing children under 12 in any library space other than the Children’s Room is featured.

Massachusetts Library Association. *Standards for Public Library Services to Children in Massachusetts*. Wakefield, MA, 1987.

McMillan, Jean. “Library Is in No Rush to Change Policy.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 5 July 1990, pp. 1–12.
Regional newspaper article featuring a photo of Library Director, Nancy Jacobson. The article explains that Ms. Jacobson was working with the Memorial Hall Library Board of Trustees to address concerns about children accessing adult areas in the library. Ms. Jacobson explained that she was in communication with the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union.

McMillan, Jean. “No Early Compromise Seen in Library Flap.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 30 July 1990.

McMillan, Jean. “Andover’s Lawyer Backs Library’s Children’s Policy.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 12 July 1990.

McMillan, Jean. “Library Group to Fight.” *Eagle Tribune*, 9 Aug. 1990.
Brief article explains that the American Library Association’s Office of Intellectual Freedom will weigh in on the case of Memorial Hall Library’s policy restricting children under twelve to the library’s Children’s Room unless accompanied by an adult.

McMillan, Jean. “Selectman Avoid Library Flap Role.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 10 Aug. 1990.
Brief reporting on the August 8th, Andover Board of Selectmen meeting in which Gerald Palmer petitioned the town representatives to lift policies restricting children’s access to the adult areas of Memorial Hall Library. Selectmen Chair Barenboim refused Palmer’s request to override the MHL Board of Trustees who weren’t due to meet until September

Morris, Bonnie J. “Don’t Bar Children.” Received by Editors of the Eagle Tribune, *The Eagle Tribune*, 1990, North Andover, MA.
A visiting professor at Harvard expressed disapproval of Memorial Hall Library’s policy of barring children under twelve from the majority of the library’s spaces and resources.

Palmer, Jean. "Letter to the Editor: Mean Spirited Inaccuracies." *Wilson Library Bulletin*. February 1992.

Palmer, Lee. "Letter to Nancy Jacobson, Director, Memorial Hall Library." Andover, MA, 30 May 1990. Correspondence.

Palmer, Lee. “Affidavit of Lee Palmer.” 5 Aug. 1990.
Lee Palmer's sworn, written and signed statement attesting to her experience being excluded from adult areas at Memorial Hall Library.

Palmer, Lee, and Janine Givens. **“**Equal access to library materials: a speech by Lee Palmer and Janine Givens.” *Free Spirit News & Views on Growing Up*, Minneapolis, MN. 1991, p. 2.

Palmer, Lee, et al. “Equal access to library material.” *Library Journal*, vol. 66, no. 1, Sept. 1991, pp. 38–40.

Rock, Cheryl. “Library Policy Defended, Adults Need Quiet Area.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 22 June 1990.

"Shelving a Library Ban." *National Geographic World*, February 1992, p. 24.
Brief article in a national glossy magazine targeted at children features a photo of Lee Palmer and Janine Givens in the young adult area at Memorial Hall Library in Andover. The article explains their successful 1990 efforts to change a policy at Memorial Hall Library in Andover, MA forbidding children under 12 to be in the main adult areas of the library.

Shultz, Christine. “Segregated Stacks.” *Yankee*, Mar. 1991, p. 55.
National lifestyle magazine features a color photo of Lee Palmer, Janine Givens and friends in Memorial Hall Library’s top floor silent study area. The elementary school kids were able to be in that library space, the article explains, due to a six-month trial allowed by the library’s Board of Trustees to evaluate allowing children under twelve in all parts of the library. The article is part of series of short articles about controversies in New England towns.

Smith, Paul A. “He Calls Library Policy Shameful.” Received by Editors of The Andover Townsman, *The Eagle Tribune*, 1990, North Andover, MA.
Andover resident and college textbook publisher objects to Memorial Hall Library’s policy of barring children under twelve from adult areas in the library as bigoted and effectively obstructing the inherent right to read of younger citizens.

“Teaching Children to Use Lawyers.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 4 Oct. 1990.
Editorial in a Merrimack Valley regional daily newspaper describing Memorial Hall Library’s new six-month trial policy allowing children under twelve to have full access to the building. The editorial puts forward the idea that the age twelve and under users of the library preferred the materials and space in the Children’s Room to the adult areas and collections, and that the policy change was unnecessary. The editorial also suggests that the Andover parents leading the change did not represent the best interests of the Town of Andover, and that they set a bad example for children by engaging a bullying civil rights lawyer to achieve their goals.

Town of Andover, Select Board Meeting, segment August 6, 1990. (video recording)
Andover parent and attorney, Gerald Palmer presents a citizen’s petition regarding restricted access for children at Memorial Hall Library. (28:43)
https://archive.org/details/august-6-1990-town-of-andover-board-of-selectmen-meeting-featuring-gerald-palmer

WBZ-4 Eye Witness News, Sarah-Ann Shaw, *Controversy by the Book*, July 3, 1990.
https://archive.org/details/wbz-eyewitness-news-sarah-ann-shaw-mhl-childrens-access-july-3-1990
July 3, 1990 news segment from WBZ 4 Boston Eyewitness News. Reporter Sarah-Ann Shaw reported from Memorial Hall Library in Andover regarding the library's policy not allowing children under the age of twelve full-access to the building. Nancy Jacobson, the Library Director and Patricia Edmonds, President of the Trustees of Memorial Hall Library are interviewed as well as Jean Palmer, an Andover parent and Janine Givens and Abby Spieler, Andover Public Schools students.

WCCM Radio, News segment announcing the new policy at Memorial Hall Library allowing children to access all areas of the library, September 13, 1990.
MHL Trustees President, Pat Edmunds and Andover Public Schools student Lee Palmer are interviewed. (2:19)
https://archive.org/details/9-13-1990-wccm-radio-segment-announcing-new-library-policy-memorial-hall-library

WLLH Radio, Paul Sullivan interview with Janine Givens and Lee Palmer, April 10, 1991. (24:48)
https://archive.org/details/wllh-4-10-91-paul-sullivan-interview-with-janine-givens-and-lee-palmer

Wunsch, Sarah. “Mass Civil Liberties Union Responds to Eagle Tribune Editorial.” Received by Jean Palmer, 12 July 1990.

Wunsch, Sarah. “Letter to the Editor: Library Acting Silly, Not Civil Liberties Union.” *The Eagle Tribune*, 18 July 1990.

Wunsch, Sarah. "Andover Students Win Equal Library Rights." *The Docket: Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts* November 1990.